THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The National Curriculum Framework, 2005 formulated by National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has suggested certain measures for examination reform which are as follows:

(i) Examinations with a flexible 'time limit' can reduce stress among students.

(ii) More chances to students for qualifying the Board Examination within the window of 2-3 years.

(iii) Transparency in the procedure of conducting the examinations and evaluating the answers scripts.

(iv) No Board or State level examinations for other stages of schooling such as, class V, VIII or XI.

(v) Flexible and implementable scheme of Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation.

NCERT has also developed sample question papers reflecting the shift in the typology of the questions to test students' ability to transform raw data/information into knowledge through the process of analysis, synthesis and problem solving.

However, NCERT has only an advisory role in the matter. It is upto the School Education Boards to adopt the recommendations.

Regulation of private universities

165. SHRl P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to regulate the fee structures, admission and curricula of private universities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The University Grants Commission (UGC) frame regulations from time to time on admission and fee structure in un-aided private educational institutions.

Kasturba Gandhi Vidyalayas in Uttarakhand

†166. SHRI HAR1SH RAWAT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalays opened in Uttarakhand till now and the number of such schools proposed to be opened this year;

(b) whether the existing standards to open these schools in the hilly areas of the country are proposed to be relaxed; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) Based on the proposal received from the State Government, 25 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) schools have been sanctioned by the Government of India in Uttarakhand. Out of these, 13 KGBVs are reported to be operational in the State.

Arts and commerce streams in Kendriya Vidyalaya, Pithoragarh

†167. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that the demand for starting Arts arid Commerce streams in Kendriya Vidyalaya at Pithoragarh is being persistently made; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not commencing the classes of Arts and Commerce streams in this school till now and by when this stream would be started in this school?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) No proposal for opening of Arts and Commerce streams at Kendriya Vidyalaya (KV), Pithoragarh has been received by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) either from KV, Pithoragarh or from the Regional Office of KVS, Dehradun. However, Arts stream was sanctioned for the school during the current year, but the sanction had to be withdrawn' due to non-availability of required number of class rooms.

Poverty as the reason for drop out

†168. SHRl DATTA MEGHE: W i l l the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one reason of giving up study by the children under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is poverty;

(b) if so, the efforts being made by Government so that the children may not give up their study midway;

(c) whether complaints have been received regarding the arrangement of providing mid-day meals;

(d) if so, the steps taken for redressal of these complaints; and

(e) the steps taken by Government for successful implementation of the schemes like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan And Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) Proverty is one of the various socio-economic and school related factors that affect drop-outs.

A number of schemes are being implemented to reduce drop-out rates and universalize elementary education, the main ones being Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Mid-day Meal Scheme and the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi